

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 12, 2014

In Attendance: Bev Barnes (Chairperson), Sarah Holland, Rev. Bill Stockelman, Donna Cox, Paul Justice, John Dickhaus, Angie Tucker, Laura Brausch, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: None

Guest: Liz Ingram

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairperson Barnes.

Faith Formation: Sarah Holland began by offering a prayer. This was followed by a gospel reading about the transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17: 1-9). The members prayerfully reflected upon the reading and offered personal insights into its message.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 5, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Importance of Planning: Chairperson Barnes began the discussion by introducing a book to the members: *The Art of Change: Faith, Vision and Prophetic Planning*. She then read an excerpt from the book. Afterwards, Father Bill reminded the members that the parish will be undergoing change in the near future and it is important to plan for that change. Some questions that should be answered are: What do we want to have ready for the next pastor? Do we need a group or committee to do this planning? Is the Pastoral Council the best group for this effort? How do we identify people who can assist in this effort? Paul Justice brought up the role of the Pastoral Council in controlling the work of other groups and committees. Chairperson Barnes asked for feedback from the members on this topic. Members expressed an interest in reading the book.

Virtus Update: Father Bill informed the members that the Virtus Program will be fully effective on June 1. All persons having contact with children at St Bernadette must receive the initial training by that date. Fingerprinting of volunteers is no longer required but extensive background searches are conducted.

School Report: Liz Ingram reported on several activities at the school including:

- Based upon enrollment to date for next year, another classroom will be needed. Already, 188 confirmed registrations have been received with at least 7 more expected. More will likely be added afterwards based upon past history.
- Letters to parents of school children were sent out recently. The letters reported on the parent's required participation at the parish and tuition.
- The PTO has been re-organized and will have its initial meeting on March 13. Regular monthly meetings are anticipated for the next school year.

- The Safety Committee is seeking estimates for door security. Two-way hand-held radios are on order to provide another communication method in case of an emergency.
- The Finance Committee is assembling a budget to replace the usual list of expenditures to allow the Principal to consider salary adjustments.
- Teacher contracts have been modified to include a more explicit list of unacceptable personal behaviors.
- The school calendar for next year is being developed.

Juarez Trip: The bulletin recently listed a trip to Juarez in May. This is not a formal parish-sponsored trip but is being organized by members of the parish. The parish may sponsor a trip later in the year.

Social Media/St Bernadette: Chairperson Barnes asked about the Facebook pages for both the school and the parish. Her concern is that information listed on the pages are approved by an authorized representative of the parish. Liz Ingram reported that the school page is maintained by a staff member who has performed this task for several years. It was reported that the parish page is really just a group, not an actual formal page. It is sponsored by a member of the parish. The information and comments posted, while seemingly not contrary to the work of the parish, are not under the control of an authorized individual.

Pastors Corner: Father Bill informed the members of the following:

- The photo directory is being delayed so it may be issued as part of the 70th anniversary of the parish this June. A total of 259 participated in the directory.
- New art work will be installed in the Welcoming Space of the Church.
- Christ Renews His Parish will take place for men on the weekend of March 15-16 and for women on March 29-30.
- Children will be confirmed at the end of March at the Cathedral by the Archbishop.

Parish Voice: Sarah Holland mentioned that during the group discussion as part of the new evangelism presentation, members of her group suggested that the parish ministries take turns sponsoring the hospitality. The Pastoral Council members supported this idea and letters are to be sent to the ministries to seek their input. Chairperson Barnes reported that 3 new plant stands are being prepared and should be ready for Easter.

Adjournment: A closing prayer was offered by Sarah Holland. The meeting was then adjourned at 8:47 PM.

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| <p>Please note: Next meeting will be Wednesday April 2 at 7:00 PM.</p> |
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Approved on April 2, 2014